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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

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28 MAR. 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Syrian military coup

The Syrian army command assumed power this morning.

The hard line toward Israel will probably continue.

2. Argentine crisis at the breaking point

Frondizi's time seems to be running out. Late press reports indicate that the armed services, in the face of his refusal to resign, have rejected various compromise offers and plan to move against him today.

3. Laos

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4. West New Guinea

The Dutch decision yesterday to send troop and naval reinforcements to West New Guinea will probably confirm Sukarno's belief that the Dutch are unwilling to transfer the territory to Indonesia. Prospects for an early negotiated settlement now look dim, and Indonesia may be expected to accelerate military preparations and carry out new infiltrations in the West New Guinea area.

5. Algeria

Selection of Abderrahamne Fares, a respected Moslem and former president of the Algerian Assembly, to head the provisional government until the referendum, improves the prospects for successful implementation of the accords. Meanwhile, despite continuing incidents and strikes, Algiers and Oran were relatively calm yesterday and last night.

6. Common Market reaction
to US tariff moves

The angry reaction in the Common Market to the US tariff action on carpets and glass will probably lead the Council of Ministers at their 4 April meeting to discuss the whole question of US-Common Market trading relations. The issue has become a "community" rather than a purely Belgian matter and the Council may consider taking retaliatory measures against the US which could seriously affect US exports to the entire EEC area.

7. Cuban leadership
fight

Castro's public attack on veteran Communist leader Anibal Escalante (and his subsequent flight from Cuba) confirms that there is conflict within the top Cuban leadership. Castro charged Escalante with following a "non-Marxist and deviationist line" and building a personal empire. The details are still not clear, but there is no evidence that Castro's position is jeopardized or that he is in conflict with the most influential Communists, Blas Roca and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez.

8. Berlin

a. Soviet flights are scheduled in the corridors during darkness this evening (between 1355 and 1646 EST), six in the northern corridor, two in the central corridor.

b. The Soviets have in effect rejected our protest against the firing on the US military mission car.

NOTES

- A. After several false starts and a two year hiatus, Communist China's National People's Congress met yesterday. Early news releases indicate that the first order of business was routine. [REDACTED] 50X1
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- B. The pending nomination as Spanish ambassador to the US of Antonio Garrigues--a pro-American monarchist--is a further indication of Franco's desire to facilitate renegotiation of the base agreements that expire in 1963.
- C. A Middle-East plague of locusts threatens the crops of Jordan, Israel, Iran, Syria and possibly Turkey and the Sinai Peninsula during the next several months. Some damage has already been reported in Saudi Arabia, Yemen and West Pakistan.
- D. [REDACTED] a Soviet Northern Fleet submarine launched a missile on 26 March, and that additional launchings may take place. There is no clear evidence linking this to other activities in the area, some of which appear to be preparations for nuclear testing. [REDACTED] 50X1
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- E. Brazilian president Goulart's advance agents are cranking up a publicity campaign in the US for his visit here at the same time the Brazilian Communist Party plans a campaign to force him to cancel the trip on the grounds of "repeated attacks against Brazil by US government officials and by the US press." Goulart's press secretary, who will accompany him, is an avowed Communist. [REDACTED] 50X1

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE